

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 61 (cancelled).

62. (previously presented) A guard for a syringe comprising a proximal end and a distal end, a lip on the proximal end, and a needle extending from the distal end, the guard comprising:

a body comprising a cavity for receiving the syringe axially therein through an open proximal end of the body, and comprising an open distal end;

one or more lateral surfaces on the proximal end of the body substantially enclosing a recess for receiving the proximal end of the syringe therein, the lateral surfaces comprising a locking mechanism for substantially permanently engaging the lip on the proximal end of the syringe received in the cavity;

a shield slidably attached to the body, and having open proximal and distal ends, the shield being slidable between an unguarded and a guarded position, the needle on the syringe extending through the open distal end in the unguarded position and being covered by the shield in the guarded position; and

cooperating detents on the shield and body for holding the shield in the unguarded and guarded positions.

63. (previously presented) The guard of claim 62, wherein the locking mechanism comprises locking detents in the lateral surfaces for engaging the

proximal end of the syringe received in the cavity, thereby substantially permanently locking the syringe in the body.

64. (previously presented) The guard of claim 63, wherein the locking detents have tapered proximal edges and blunt distal edges for substantially permanently receiving the lip on the syringe thereunder.

65. (previously presented) The guard of claim 63, wherein the locking detents define slots for receiving the lip therein, thereby preventing the syringe from being removed proximally from the body.

66. (previously presented) The guard of claim 62, wherein the cooperating detents comprise one or more cooperating detents and detent pockets on the body and the shield, at least one of the cooperating detents and detent pockets releasably holding the shield in the unguarded position, and at least one of the cooperating detents and detent pockets comprising a blunt proximal region for substantially permanently locking the shield in the guarded position.

67. (previously presented) The syringe of claim 62, further comprising a finger ledge on one of the body and the shield.

68. (previously presented) A syringe comprising:
a syringe holding medication comprising proximal and distal ends, the syringe comprising a needle extending from the distal end and a lip on the proximal end;

a body comprising a cavity for receiving the syringe axially therein through an open proximal end of the body, and comprising an open distal end;

one or more lateral surfaces on the proximal end of the body substantially enclosing a recess for receiving the proximal end of the syringe therein, the lateral surfaces comprising a locking mechanism for engaging the lip to substantially permanently encapsulate the syringe in the body;

a shield slidably attached to the body, and having open proximal and distal ends, the shield being slidable between an unguarded and a guarded position, thereby uncovering and covering, respectively, the needle on the syringe; and

cooperating detents on the shield and body for holding the shield in the guarded and unguarded positions.

69. (previously presented) The syringe of claim 68, further comprising a finger ledge on one of the body and the shield.

70. (previously presented) The syringe of claim 69, wherein the finger ledge is on the proximal end of the body.

71. (previously presented) The syringe of claim 69, wherein the finger ledge comprises a finger hold on the shield.

72. (previously presented) The syringe of claim 68, wherein the locking mechanism comprises locking detents in the lateral surfaces for engaging the proximal end of the syringe received in the cavity, thereby substantially permanently locking the syringe in the body.

73. (previously presented) The guard of claim 72, wherein the locking detents have tapered proximal edges and blunt distal edges for substantially permanently receiving the lip on the syringe thereunder.

74. (previously presented) The guard of claim 72, wherein the locking detents define slots for receiving the lip therein, thereby preventing the syringe from being removed proximally from the body.

75. (previously presented) The guard of claim 68, wherein the cooperating detents comprise one or more cooperating detents and detent pockets on the body and the shield, at least one of the cooperating detents and detent pockets releasably holding the shield in the unguarded position, and at least one of the cooperating detents and detent pockets comprising a blunt proximal region for substantially permanently locking the shield in the guarded position.

76. (previously presented) A guard for a syringe comprising a proximal end and a distal end, a lip on the proximal end, and a needle extending from the distal end, the guard comprising:

a substantially rigid body comprising a cavity for receiving the syringe axially therein through an open proximal end of the body, and comprising an open distal end;

one or more lateral surfaces on the proximal end of the body substantially enclosing a recess for receiving the proximal end of the syringe therein;

one or more locking detents extending from the one or more lateral surfaces for engaging the lip to substantially permanently encapsulate the syringe in the body;

a shield slidably attached to the body, and having open proximal and distal ends, the shield being slidable between an unguarded and a guarded position, thereby uncovering and covering, respectively, the needle on the syringe; and

cooperating detents on the shield and body for holding the shield in the unguarded and guarded positions.

77. (previously presented) The guard of claim 76, wherein the one or more locking detents extend from the one or more lateral surfaces into the recess to lockably capture the lip of the syringe thereunder when the syringe is received within the cavity.

78. (previously presented) The guard of claim 76, wherein the locking detents have tapered proximal edges and blunt distal edges for substantially permanently receiving the lip on the syringe thereunder.

79. (previously presented) The guard of claim 76, wherein the cooperating detents comprise one or more cooperating detents and detent pockets on the body and the shield, at least one of the cooperating detents and detent pockets releasably holding the shield in the unguarded position, and at least one of the cooperating detents and detent pockets comprising a blunt proximal region for substantially permanently locking the shield in the guarded position.

80. (previously presented) A guard for a syringe comprising a proximal end and a distal end, a lip on the proximal end, and a needle extending from the distal end, the guard comprising:

a body comprising a cavity for receiving the syringe axially therein through an open proximal end of the body, and comprising an open distal end, the proximal end of the body comprising a plurality of slots for receiving a portion of the lip of the syringe therein for substantially permanently locking the syringe to the body;

a shield slidably attached to the body, and having open proximal and distal ends, the shield being slidable between an unguarded and a guarded position, the needle on the syringe extending through the open distal end in the guarded position and being covered by the shield in the guarded position; and

cooperating detents on the shield and body for holding the shield in the unguarded and guarded positions.

81. (previously presented) The guard of claim 80, wherein the proximal end of the body comprises locking detents defining the slots..

82. (Currently amended). A guard for a syringe having a needle associated therewith, ~~comprising a proximal end and a distal end, a lip on the proximal end, and a needle extending from the distal end~~, the guard comprising:

a body for receiving a the syringe axially through an open proximal end of the body, and having comprising an open distal end, the proximal end of the body ~~comprising one or more lateral surfaces substantially enclosing~~ having a wall for substantially enclosing a recess for receiving the proximal end of ~~the~~ a syringe therein, ~~the one or more lateral surfaces comprising~~ the recess being provided with a locking mechanism ~~for~~ adapted to substantially permanently engage ~~engaging~~ the a lip on the proximal end of ~~the~~ a syringe received in the recess cavity;

a shield slidably attached to the body, and having open proximal and distal ends, the shield being slidable between an ~~unguarded~~ unguarding and a ~~guarded~~ guarding position, said shield being adapted to permit a the needle on ~~the~~ a syringe to extending extend through the open distal end when the shield is in the ~~unguarded~~ unguarding position and ~~being covered by~~ to cover the shield in the ~~guarded~~ guarding position; and

cooperating detents on the shield and body for holding the shield in the ~~unguarded~~ unguarding and ~~guarded~~ guarding positions.

83. (Currently amended) The guard of claim 82, wherein the locking mechanism comprises locking detents ~~in the one or more lateral surfaces~~ for engaging the proximal end of ~~the~~ a syringe received in the ~~cavity~~ recess, the locking detents having ~~have~~ tapered proximal edges and blunt distal edges for substantially permanently receiving ~~the~~ a lip on ~~the~~ a syringe thereunder.

84. (Currently amended) The guard of claim 83, wherein the locking detents define slots for receiving at least a portion of the lip therein, thereby substantially preventing ~~the~~ a syringe from being removed proximally from the body.

85. (Previously added). The guard of claim 82, further comprising a finger ledge on at least one of the body and the shield.

86. (Previously added) The guard of claim 85, wherein the finger ledge comprises a finger hold on the shield.

87. (Previously added) The guard of claim 82, wherein the body has a round cross-section.

88. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The combination comprising a syringe having a needle associated with the distal end thereof and a guard, said combination, comprising:

a syringe comprising a cartridge for holding medication therein and having ~~comprising~~ proximal and distal ends, the syringe comprising a needle extending from ~~the~~ its distal end and a lip on ~~the~~ its proximal end;

a guard comprising a body for receiving the syringe axially through an open proximal end of the body, and comprising an open distal end, the proximal end of the body ~~comprising lateral surfaces substantially enclosing~~ having a wall for substantially enclosing a recess for receiving the proximal end of the syringe therein, ~~the lateral surfaces comprising~~ recess being provided with a locking mechanism for substantially permanently engaging the lip on the proximal end of the syringe received in the cavity;

a shield slidably attached to the body, and having open proximal and distal ends, the shield being slidable between an ~~unguarded~~ unguarding and a ~~guarded~~ guarding position, the needle on the syringe extending through the open distal end when the shield is in the unguarding ~~unguarded~~ position and being covered by the shield when the shield is in the ~~guarded~~ guarding position; and

cooperating detents on the shield and body for holding the shield in the ~~guarded~~ unguarding and ~~unguarded~~ guarding positions.

89. (Currently amended) The syringe combination of claim 88, wherein the locking mechanism comprises locking detents ~~in the one or more lateral surfaces~~ for engaging the proximal end of the syringe received in the cavity, the locking detents

having ~~have~~ tapered proximal edges and blunt distal edges for substantially permanently receiving the lip on the syringe thereunder.

90. (Currently amended) The ~~syringe~~ combination of claim 89, wherein the locking detents define slots for receiving at least a portion of the lip therein, thereby substantially preventing the syringe from being removed proximally from the body.

91. (Currently amended) The ~~syringe~~ combination of claim 89, further comprising a finger ledge on at least one of the body and the shield.

92. (Currently amended) The ~~syringe~~ combination of claim 91, wherein the finger ledge comprises a finger hold on the shield.

93. (Currently amended) The ~~syringe~~ combination of claim 89, wherein the body has a round cross-section.

94. (Previously Presented) A guard for a syringe comprising a proximal end and a distal end, a lip on the proximal end, and a needle extending from the distal end, the guard comprising:

a substantially rigid body for receiving the syringe axially through an open proximal end of the body, and comprising an open distal end, the proximal end of the body ~~comprising one or more lateral surfaces~~ having a wall substantially enclosing a recess for receiving the proximal end of the syringe therein;

the recess being provided with one or more locking detents extending from the one or more lateral surfaces of the body for engaging the lip to substantially permanently encapsulate the syringe through the body;

a shield slidably attached to the body, and having open proximal and distal ends, the shield being slidable between an unguarded and a guarded position, thereby uncovering and covering, respectively, the needle on the syringe; and

cooperating detents on the shield and body for holding the shield in the unguarded and guarded positions.

95. (Previously Presented) The guard of claim 94, wherein the locking detents extend from the one or more lateral surfaces into the recess to lockably capture the lip of the syringe thereunder.

96. (Previously Presented) The guard of claim 95, wherein the locking detents have tapered proximal edges and blunt distal edges for substantially permanently receiving the lip on the syringe thereunder.

97. (Previously Presented) The guard of claim 95, wherein the locking detents define slots for receiving at least a portion of the lip therein.

98. (Previously Presented) A guard for a syringe comprising a proximal end and a distal end, a lip on the proximal end, and a needle extending from the distal end, the guard comprising:

a body for receiving the syringe axially through an open proximal end of the body, and comprising an open distal end, the body comprising one or more lateral surfaces defining a recess for receiving the proximal end of the syringe therein, the one or more lateral surfaces comprising one or more slots for receiving at least a portion of the lip of the syringe therein for substantially permanently locking the syringe to the body;

a shield slidably attached to the body, and having open proximal and distal ends, the shield being slidable between an unguarded and a guarded position, the needle on the syringe extending through the open distal end in the unguarded position and being covered by the shield in the guarded position; and

cooperating detents on the shield and body for holding the shield in the unguarded and guarded positions.

99. (Previously Presented) The guard of claim 98, further comprising a finger hold on the shield.

100. (New) A guard for a syringe having a needle associated therewith and the syringe having a lip on a proximal end thereof, the guard comprising:

a body for receiving a syringe axially through an open proximal end of the body, and having an open distal end through which a needle of a syringe may extend, the proximal end of the body substantially enclosing a recess for receiving the proximal end of a syringe and lip thereof, the recess being provided with slots

adapted to substantially permanently engage a lip on the proximal end of a syringe received in the recess;

a shield slidably attached to the body, and having open proximal and distal ends, the shield being slidable between an unguarding and a guarding position, said shield being adapted to permit a needle on a syringe to extend through the open distal end when the shield is in the unguarding position and to cover the shield in the guarding position; and

cooperating detents on the shield and body for holding the shield in the unguarding and guarding positions.